

PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of: **Kazutoshi HARAGUCHI**

Serial No.: **Not Yet Assigned**

Filed: **May 25, 2001**

For: **ORGANIC/INORGANIC HYBRID HYDROGEL AND MANUFACTURING
METHOD THEREFOR**

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

May 25, 2001

Sir:

Prior to the calculation of the filing fees of the above application, please amend the application as follows:

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend claims 3, 4, 12 and 14 as follows:

3. (Amended) An organic/inorganic hybrid hydrogel according to claim 1, wherein the weight ratio of the water swelling clay mineral (B) to the water soluble polymer (A) is within a range of 0.01 to 10.

4. (Amended) An organic/inorganic hybrid hydrogel according to claim 1, wherein said water soluble polymer (A) includes polymers obtained by polymerization of acrylamide derivatives and/or methacrylamide derivatives.

12. (Amended) An aqueous solution absorbent material comprised of said organic/inorganic hybrid hydrogel according to claim 1.

14. (Amended) A manufacturing method for an organic/inorganic hybrid hydrogel according to claim 13, wherein said homogenous solution containing (A'), (B), and (C) further comprises an organic solvent which is miscible with water.

Please add the following new claims:

22. An organic/inorganic hybrid hydrogel according to claim 3, wherein the weight ratio of the water swelling clay mineral (B) to the water soluble polymer (A) is within a range of 0.01 to 10.

23. An organic/inorganic hybrid hydrogel according to claim 2, wherein said water soluble polymer (A) includes polymers obtained by polymerization of acrylamide derivatives and/or methacrylamide derivatives.

24. An aqueous solution absorbent material comprised said dry of gel body of the organic/inorganic hybrid hydrogel according to claim 10.

25. An aqueous solution absorbent material comprised of an organic/inorganic hybrid hydrogel in which water (C) is contained in a three-dimensional network formed by hybridization of: a water soluble polymer (A) and a water swelling clay mineral (B) which can be homogeneously dispersed in water and said dry gel body of the organic/inorganic hybrid hydrogel according to claim 10.

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REMARKS

The above amendment is believed to place the claims in proper condition for examination.

Early and favorable action is awaited.

Claims 3, 4, 12 and 14 have been amended. Claims 22-25 have been added.

Attached hereto is a marked-up version of the changes made to the claims by the current amendment. The attached page is captioned “Version with markings to show changes made.”

In the event there are any additional fees required, please charge our Deposit Account No. 01-2340.

Respectfully submitted,

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